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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Laurin et al.
Serial No.: 10/044,779
Date Filed: 01/10/02
Invention: Idea Management

Atty Dkt: 2588/102

Art Unit: 3623

Examiner: Roman Jeanty

Date: March 10, 2008

COMPLETED

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the attention of Examiner Jeanty of the US Patent and Trademark Office, at 571-273-8300, the number provided on page 5 of the Office Action of January 29, 2008, as an informal communication, on March 10, 2008.



Outline for Examiner Interview Scheduled for
Wednesday, March 12, 2008 (10AM)

Dear Examiner Jeanty:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation on March 6, 2008, I am providing you with this outline for our interview scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 10:00 AM.

In the Examiner's office action of January 29, 2008, he withdrew the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection over U.S. Patent 6,556,974 to D'Alessandro and applied a new 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) rejection against the claims over D'Alessandro in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,201 to Tso. The new rejection fails to consider that neither the D'Alessandro reference nor the Tso reference teach or suggest "determining the network routing of data from [a] structured response to business management based upon entries of the

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response," as required by the claims. The response of November 2, 2007 makes this distinction clear. Most particularly, we believe that the Examiner failed to adequately consider the following passage from the response:

A second distinct feature of the present invention as claimed in the independent claims is that after completing the series of templates the system determines the routing of the idea to business management. Routing requires a decision to be made based on a number of options. The content of the user's submission is the basis for determining the one or more business managers that receive the user's submission. Thus, there are more than one possible end points (business manager) for receiving the user's suggestion. In the Alessandro patent, the survey data 90 is analyzed in an analysis module 140 for the organization, resulting in a data set, such as that shown in Fig. 5. No routing decision is made for routing the survey information submitted by a user to a member of the business management. The analyzed data is collected in a database and may be presented to the organization as indicated in Fig. 1 by the arrow pointing to the organization 10. *See also Col. 6 lines 1-2.* However, no routing is contemplated by this arrow.

The office action suggests that the Alessandro patent teaches determining network routing of data to business management based upon entries within the structured response as shown at *col. 5 lines 44-59*. Applicants respectfully disagrees. In this section of the Alessandro patent, a data gathering interface is described which may incorporate a number of mediums such as wide-area-networks and the Internet. Thus, a user can enter information using, for example, HTML, and the entries will be transmitted through a WAN or the Internet to the database 100. *See Col. 5 lines 60-61.* The entered data is never routed to business management and further, no routing decision is made based upon the content of the structured response.

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Response of November 2, 2007, pages 13-14. Thus, the present invention is distinguishable from the combination of D'Alessandro and Tso for at least the reason that routing ideas to management based upon the content of a user response is not taught.

A second reason why the Examiner's obviousness rejection fails is because the combination of the cited references would not result in the claimed invention. Tso teaches a template engine that generates a context sensitive text message corresponding to an input text string. *See abstract.* Based on an input string sent to the user, the system of Tso selects one or more template messages that are contextually appropriate as a response to the input string. *See abstract.* The user can pick one of the selected templates and send it as a responsive text message. *See abstract.*

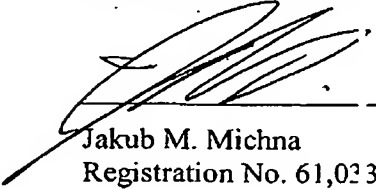
D'Alessandro teaches an automated employee survey system. *Col. 2, lines 60-64.* The purpose of the survey system is to measure a predetermined set of business performance criteria. *Id.* The performance criteria are measured using a predetermined set of questions. *Col. 3, line 31-33.* There is no teaching or suggestion in D'Alessandro that the set of questions are modified based on the employee responses.

The combination of D'Alessandro and Tso would result in a survey system that selects a series of template answers for a user in response to predetermined questions, and not a system where the templates presented to the user are selected according to the type of suggestion categorized by the user, as required by the claims. The combination of D'Alessandro and Tso is focused on providing template answers to predetermined questions, whereas the focus of the claims is in providing template questions.

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If the Examiner has any questions, he is welcome to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at 617-443-9292.

Respectfully submitted,



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